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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, MARR

SUBJECT: GREECE-US NEGOTIATIONS: HOMEPORING SUBGROUP

NEGOTIATIONS WHICH BEGIN 23 JUNE.

REF: ATHENS 4045

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND COMMENT, THE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF
THE NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS OF THE HOMEPORING SUBGROUP ARE
OUTLINED BELOW.

1. NEGOTIATING GOALS: TO GET THE GREEKS TO AGREE TO THE
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NORMALIZATION OF SIXTH FLEET SHIP VISITS TO THE ATHENS AREA;

TO RETAIN A RESIDUAL US NAVY PRESENCE AT ELEFSIS TO SUPPORT THOSE VISITS, INCLUDING THE RETENTION OF EXISTING PIER FACILITIES; TO PROVIDE SIXTH FLEET ACCESS TO GREEK COMMERCIAL POL SOURCES AND THE COLD-IRON CAPABILITY OF THE US NAVY LEASED PIER AT ELEFSIS.

2. SHIP VISITS: OUR OPTIMUM GOAL FOR SHIP VISITS TO GREECE IS A TOTAL OF 25 PER MONTH. FIFTEEN OF THESE VISITS PER MONTH WOULD USE THE ELEFSIS PIER COMPLEX. THAT COMPLEX WILL NOT BE WORTH THE EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING IT UNLESS A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SHIP VISITS USING THE COMPLEX IS PERMITTED BY THE GREEKS. THAT MINIMUM LEVEL IS 20 SHIP VISITS TO ELEFSIS (ABOUT 190 SHIP DAYS) PER QUARTER.

3. CHANGES IN SUPPORT FACILITIES AT ELEFSIS: WITH THE END OF HOMEPORTING, THE CURRENT PERSONNEL SUPPORT FOR HOMEPORTING WILL DISAPPEAR. WE WILL TRY TO GET THE GREEKS AGREE-MENT BOTH TO THE RETENTION OF THE LEASED PIER (AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NAVY SHIP LIAISON OFFICE, IN SUPPORT OF SHIP VISITS TO ELEFSIS. THIS OFFICE WOULD CONSIST OF 17 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS:THE COMPLEX WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE GREEK NAVY AND COMMANDED BY A GREEK OFFICER. THE GREEK FLAG ALONE WOULD BE FLOWN ASHORE. THE PIER AND THE ASSOCIATED FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE GREEK NAVY ON A SHARED-COST BASIS. THE GREEK NAVY WOULD PROVIDE SECURITY AND CONTROL OVER ENTRANCE TO THE FACILITY AT US EXPENSE.

5. A DRAFT NAVY-TO-NAVY TECHNICAL AGREEMENT SPELLING OUT THESE AND OTHER PARTICULARS HAS BEEN PREPARED, AND WILL BE PROVIDED THE EMBASSY. IT WILL BE TABLED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. COMMENT: THE QUESTION OF GREEK AGREEMENT TO THE RESUMPTION OF SHIP VISITS TO GREECE INEVITABLY ARISES BECAUSE, AS HAS BEEN INDICATED, UNLESS A MINIMUM LEVEL OF VISITS TO THE ELEFSIS COMPLEX IS MAINTAINED, THE EXPENSE

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OF THE COMPLEX WILL EXCEED THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE VISITS. AS THE QUESTION OF VISITS IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE PIER NEGOTIATION, THERE MAY BE ADVANTAGE IN AIRING THE GENERAL QUESTION OF VISITS TO PORTS IN GREECE IN ADDITION TO ELEFSIS. HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON THE NEGOTIATING SITUATION, IT MAY BE PRUDENT NOT TO TRY TO GENERALIZE THE SHIP VISIT QUESTION BUT TO CONFINE IT TO THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RETENTION OF THE ELEFSIS PIER

COMPLEX. WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT WE DO NOT YET HAVE GREEK AGREEMENT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF THE RETENTION OF THE ELEFSIS PIER COMPLEX AND THAT WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE TO THE GREEKS THAT WE ENTIRELY ACCEPT THAT HOMEPORTING IS OVER. WE MUST BE CLEAR THAT OUR CURRENT DISCUSSIONS CONCERN A DIFFERENT SUBJECT: THE USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF SHIP VISITS.

7. TEAM ARRIVING FROM WASHINGTON CONSISTS OF CMDR. GRUNAWALT, COL. FLEMINGS, CMDR. MCVOY AND CMDR. SWEET. KISSINGER

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